



Page 5

www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

BRIEFING

21st century communications from the City of Bloomington

Volume 10, Number 1

February 2002

INSIDE

Page 2. Our Mayor on Human Services.

Page 3. New Police/City Hall/Arts Center.

Pages 4 and 5. Parks and Rec activities.

Page 6. Spring Citywide Curbside Cleanup and Garage Sale.

Page 7. Easy access to info, support groups.

Page 8. Amphitheater.

Remodeling?

Before starting any home improvement project, check out the City's Web site for:

- ◆ Permit applications and forms.
- ◆ Information sheets.
- ◆ Answers to frequently asked questions.

Visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us or call Building Inspections at 952-563-8930. ◆

Keep storm water out of the sewer system

Did you know sump pumps should be directed outside at least 10 feet from a home or business? This ensures that water does not return to create foundation drainage problems.

Sewers may back up

State and City plumbing codes prohibit sump pumps from discharging water into laundry tubs, floor drains or any other sanitary sewer drain. Sanitary sewer pipes are not large enough to handle storm water. The additional flow may result in sewage backing up into homes and businesses.

Increased costs

Metropolitan Council Environmental Services meters sewage. Discharging water into the sanitary sewer increases utility costs that are passed on to the City as treatment fees. **Keeping storm water out of the sewer system will reduce these costs and save you fees and sewer backup expenses.**

For information, call Tim Kampa, Utilities Division, at 952-563-8777. ◆



A good sign

One of many duties Park Maintenance crews perform in winter is to take to the woodshop to replace or repair park signs that have become too weathered to read. Because of its beauty and durability, cedar is used to replace the old signs that were made of fir. First, templates are chosen to spell out the name. As a pin attached to the router follows the path of the template, it carves a groove for the letter in the wood. The letters are then painted and the signs are sealed for protection against the elements. The new signs will last at least 20 years and reduce maintenance costs. ◆



Redevelopment in the Airport South District

Mall of America

Land swap makes way for next phase

An exchange of land clears the way for the Mall of America Phase II development on the site formerly known as the Met Center. The agreement to swap properties between the Mall of America Company and the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) was finalized in December. MAC will take the 33 acres east of the Mall in order to restrict development within the new North/South Runway's airport safety zone. The land exchange will also help facilitate the light rail station planned for the Mall.

Reason for exchange

In a 1988 contract with the City of Bloomington and the Bloomington Port Authority, the Mall of America was required to complete three million square feet of development. The Mall opened in 1992 with 4.2 million square feet of retail/entertainment space.

As an incentive for further development, the contract deeded a 33-acre parcel of land to the Mall of America. Construction of Phase II was required to start by May 2002 or the property would revert to the Bloomington Port Authority.

With the construction of a north/south runway at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport came restrictions on the development potential of the 33-acre parcel owned by the Mall. See diagram. The Mall and MAC negotiated a land swap agreement that the Minnesota Legislature approved in 1996.

Delay of five years

Under the new agreement, the Mall of America Company has until May 2007 to start construction of a minimum 300,000 square foot development. In addition, the Mall has agreed to be assessed for street improvements that will facilitate Phase II development at a cost of \$13 - 16 million. These improvements set the stage for further development and transportation infrastructure in the Airport South area. Improvements include a rebuild of Lindau Lane and 79th Street and a sanitary sewer connection to the site.

Construction of initial stages of Mall of America Phase II could start as early as 2003.

For more information, contact Community Development at 952-563-8921. ◆



The airport safety zone and the new runway, pictured in red, affected the 33-acre parcel formerly owned by the Mall of America Company. The recent land swap will allow for future Mall development.

Something new in 2002

The *Bloomington Briefing* is now a full-color newsletter mailed to every household and business in Bloomington. Technological advances in the print industry have made full-color printing and mail sorting less costly than the three-color issues previously mailed in 2001. ◆

City of Bloomington
2215 West Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

Presort Std
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Mpls., MN
Permit
#2293

**ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

Services that strengthen our community

Mayor Gene Winstead

City staff performs many services with quiet efficiency in the background of our busy lives.

Human Services: Listening to our needs

Our community is diverse. We are young and old. We live alone or in families. Our citizens are, or came from, immigrants. We have abilities and disabilities. What builds our community are services that ensure equal access to information, activities, nutrition and transportation. The Bloomington Human Services Division meets our residents' needs by partnering with many individuals and agencies to provide services that improve our quality of life.

Identifying needs

For almost 30 years, Human Services has been listening and identifying citizens' needs. The Division began when individuals and parents of children with disabilities and older adults expressed to the Bloomington City Council their desire for equal access to programs, activities and other services.

Pioneers in disability awareness

Long before federal regulations, the City of Bloomington implemented its own guidelines to make sure people with disabilities had equal access to buildings and services. In 1975, the Architectural Barriers Removal Program was created to give grants to local businesses for accessible entrance ramps. The program, a joint effort between Human Services and the Planning Division, also made playgrounds accessible to all children.

Comprehensive services

The Human Services Division is unique to Bloomington. Its comprehensive services and collaborative efforts are unparalleled in other Minnesota cities. Our residents have direct access to services that include:

- ◆ **Information** - In 2000, more than 5,000 callers received details about programs and services through the Human Services Information Line, 952-563-4957 V/TTY. In 2001, Human Services partnered with Familink and continued to use trained volunteers to connect citizens with housing options for seniors, human rights issues, volunteer opportunities, educational classes, meal programs and much more.



JOB SUCCESS FAIR

Ornat looks to the future

Former Councilmember Alisa Ornat believes investing in our children means investing in the future. Ornat, who served on the Council from 1993 to 2001, did not seek re-election in order to spend more time with her own family.

"Even though I'm leaving the City Council, my heart of volunteerism is still there," Ornat said. "It was time for me to step down and focus on my family. If I couldn't give 110 percent to serving, then I didn't want to continue."

Looking ahead

What Ornat enjoyed most about her years of service was working with citizens and City employees. She said her biggest contribution to the community was looking to the future when making decisions.

"I tried thinking about how my decisions would affect my grandchildren," Ornat said. "Bloomington's founding fathers thought in advance and that is what I tried to do."

Future volunteer work

Ornat says she will continue to volunteer with youth and remain active in her church. She has been married to husband Mark for three years and has two sons, Nathan, 10, and Josiah, 18 months.

Steve Elkins, elected in November, succeeded Ornat in District III. ◆



- ◆ **Volunteers** - The heart of Human Services is the approximately 400 volunteers who coordinate programs, answer phones and work with youth or the elderly. City staff gives support, training and supervision, but these services require the dedication of the many people who volunteer their time to assist others.

- ◆ **Community activities** - Human Services offers a variety of opportunities for people of all ages and ability levels, including the Citywide Garage Sale, computer classes, youth leadership retreat, Job Success Fair and a monthly breakfast seminar for older adults.

- ◆ **Transportation** - More than 327 riders receive reliable transportation daily. This level of mobility is especially important to residents without viable resources. Trips in Bloomington are to and from



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

grocery stores, medical offices, shopping areas, summer activities for youth and city-related events.

- ◆ **Facilities** - Creekside Community Center (see below) is a place for residents to learn, socialize, receive nutritious meals or enjoy leisure activities. The widely used facility, which has rooms for rent, has almost 50,000 people a year attending meetings and gatherings. Multiple human service agencies operate from Creekside, making it a convenient stop for services.

- ◆ **Nutrition** - Human Services' nutrition programs serve older adults, persons with disabilities and low-income families. Designed to provide nutritious meals, they stretch the budget of those in need. Programs include:

- ◆ **Loaves and Fishes** provides weekday evening meals for individuals with low-incomes.

- ◆ **Store to Door** is a weekly grocery delivery service to homebound older adults and people with disabilities.

- ◆ **Volunteers of America** is a weekday noon meal program for older adults and community members.

Investing in our community

Bloomington is a diverse community with many needs and Human Services provides ways for us to hear one another. By listening, we get to know each other's needs. By helping each other, we invest in strengthening our community. ◆



Creekside - Get to know us

The Bloomington Senior Program invites you to "Get Acquainted with Creekside" at the City's Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South. Meetings will be held March 6 and April 3, 10 - 11 a.m. For more information, call 952-563-4957. ◆

SENIOR PROGRAMS

City Council

Mayor	Gene Winstead	952-888-1258(h) mayor@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Councilmembers	council@ci.bloomington.mn.us	
At Large	Dave Abrams	952-885-0506(h)
At Large	Mike Fossum	952-885-9056(h) 612-673-3645(w)
District I	Steve Peterson	952-884-3262(h)
District II	Heather Harden	952-835-5919(h)
District III	Steve Elkins	612-578-2103(c)
District IV	Vern Wilcox	952-854-1425(h)
City Manager	Mark Bernhardson	952-563-8780 citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

We are accessible!

Stop by or write:

City of Bloomington
2215 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington MN 55431-3096

Phone:

952-563-8700

TTY:

952-563-8740

FAX:

952-563-8715

E-mail:

dkirby@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Web site:

www.ci.bloomington.mn.us

More options:

For Braille, larger print or computer disk, contact Diann Kirby, 952-563-8818.

The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status or status with regard to public assistance in employment or the provision of services. • The City of Bloomington does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), as required by Section 35.107 of the U.S. Department of Justice Regulations, and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as mandated by Section 8.53 of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Regulations. For information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3096; phone: 952-563-8700; TTY: 952-563-8740.



Favorable bids start construction of City facilities

In December, the City Council approved nearly \$25 million in construction contracts for the new Police/City Hall/Arts Center facilities. The City received very favorable bids that came in under estimates as a result of the slower construction market. Four additional conference rooms and a dance and rehearsal area for the Arts Center from the original plan will be added because of the lower construction costs. The project will still remain within the budget.

Foundation work

Site grading and stage one demolition was completed last fall. An environmental cleanup included removal of asbestos, underground storage tanks

and contaminated soil. In December, concrete contractors started foundation work that is scheduled to be completed by July 2002. Steel erection will start in spring 2002.

Local economic impact

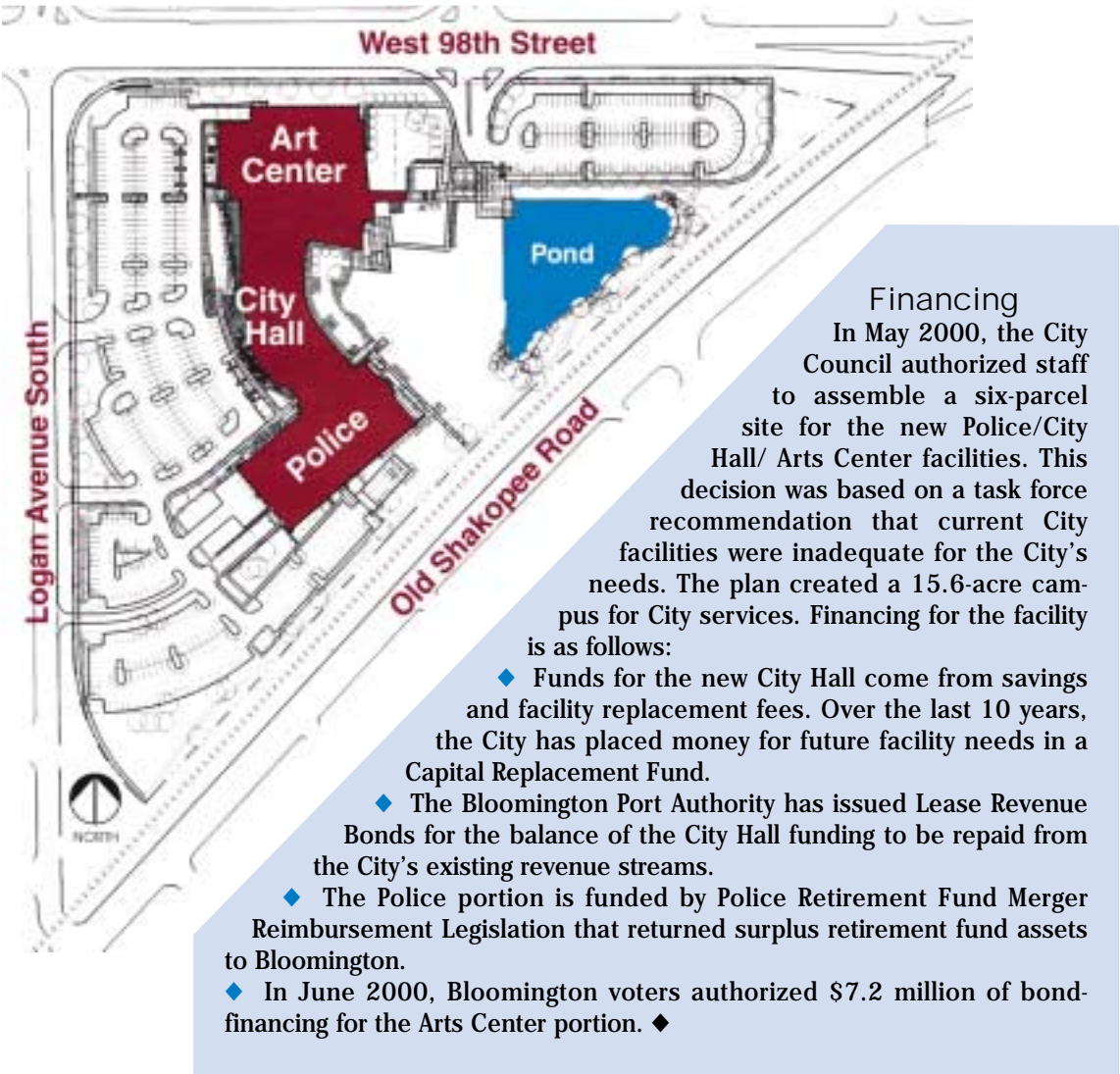
The Police/City Hall/Arts Center facilities are being built from reserves and fees already in place. See sidebar below. Because the project has secure funding and will last for 18 months, building now benefits the local economy by providing jobs, purchasing materials and reducing costs through increased construction competition.

With the downturn of the economy, some private construction projects around the

metro area have been put on hold. The City facilities construction will employ approximately 300 - 500 people in 20 different trades including steel, mechanical, electrical, dry wall, finishes and roofing.

Description

The new facilities are located between 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road. See plan below. The Police and City administrative functions, underground parking for Police vehicles and an Arts Center, including performing and visual arts space, will be housed there. Ankeny Kell Architects and M.A. Mortenson Construction lead the design and construction of the facility. The new facility is scheduled to open in April 2003. ♦



Public Works nears completion

Public Works construction is wrapping up at the 98th Street and James Avenue site. The basic structure is completed and crews are working on interior finishes including hanging lights and painting.

Approximately 71,000 square feet of vehicle equipment storage has been built. A 2,100 square foot repair garage addition was constructed, along with 15,240 square feet of new offices. Existing offices

are also being remodeled. The project is expected to be completed in March. It will take approximately one month to move in employees and equipment. ♦

2002 City property taxes

Strong financial position keeps taxes low

The City Council's adoption of the 2002 General Fund Budget in December resulted in a tax levy of \$30,765,963, an increase of 4.8 percent over 2001. The increase is comprised of:

- ♦ 2.5 percent for the City's primary operations.
- ♦ 1 percent for Debt Service related to state tax reform.
- ♦ 1.3 percent realignment to offset ongoing economic downturn estimates.

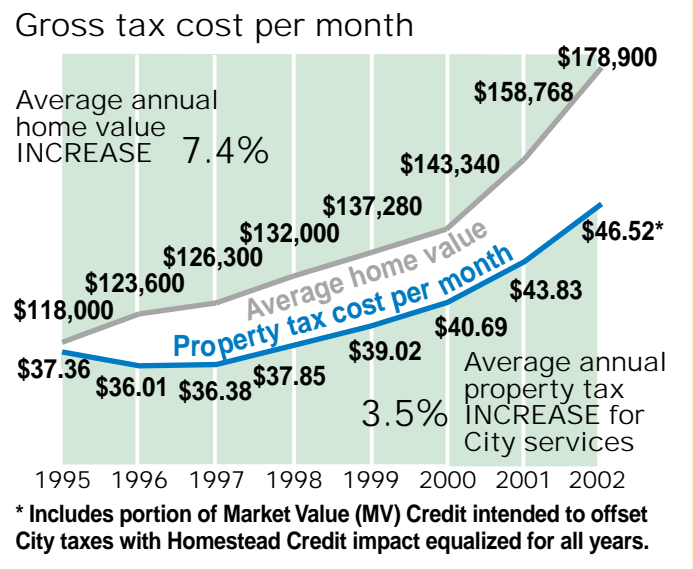
Based on this tax levy, the City's portion of property taxes - 33 percent - will increase from \$43.83 to \$46.52 per month for the owner of an average-priced home in Bloomington with a 2002 market value of \$178,900. The City's tax levy, combined with other local taxing units' rates and the state tax restructuring, results in significant decreases in all Bloomington's property taxes for 2002.

Conservative increase

"The 4.8 percent levy increase resulted in an average increase of 2.3 percent during the past nine years," explained Terri Heaton, Bloomington Chief Financial Officer. "The City's strong financial position has helped to keep tax increases low."

Home value and City services comparison

The City's levy is spread against property as the tax base. Since 1995, the average monthly cost for City services has increased 3.5 percent. During the same period, market values on the average Bloomington home, valued at \$178,900 in 2002, increased an average of 7.4 percent per year. See graph below.



The average home in our city will see a \$2.69 per month increase in City property taxes for services. Changes in the state property tax system, especially during the 2001 special session, shifted the property tax burden from commercial/industrial to residential properties. However, the total property taxes for an average home will decrease \$39.28 per month in 2002.

Responsible budgeting

Despite a substantial reduction in lodging and admission tax projections for 2002, and the threat of frozen state aid and grant payments, the City has worked diligently to minimize the levy increase. **The levy is \$1,795,987 below the state imposed levy limit.**

A closer look

Public works, police and fire services account for about 60 percent of the monthly services for which homeowners pay. See chart below.

Service Type	2001	2002
Police	\$13.07	\$13.83
Public Works	9.72	10.13
Community Services	7.17	7.14
Debt and Capital	3.59	4.77
Finance, Legal, Human Resources	2.85	2.89
Fire	2.71	2.70
Technical Services	1.94	1.98
Community Development	1.64	1.89
Administration	1.14	1.19
Monthly Total for City Services	\$43.83	\$46.52
Average Home Value	\$158,768	\$178,900

Utility fees for water have remained unchanged since 1995. Sewer, storm water and recycling fees will also stay the same as 2001. ♦

PARKS, RECREATION & ARTS UPDATE

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877.

18th Annual



This friendly competition challenges employees to shape up. Bloomington worksite coordinators receive special training and all materials needed to participate in the contest, which runs from April 22 to June 2. Every week, employees record points for aerobic, strength-training and flexibility activities. Trophies are awarded to the companies with the most points per employee. Sponsored by Parks and Recreation, this is a great way to introduce fitness, team spirit and a little fun into your workplace. Call us for information and sign up by April 8! ♦

Adult Sports

Adult tennis drills

Taught by a certified tennis instructor, drills are practice sessions to improve stroke production. Facilities include locker rooms, showers, sauna, whirlpool, steam room, swimming pool, indoor running track and exercise room.

When: Session I: February 13 - March 21.
Session II: March 27 - May 2.

Times: Beginner: Wednesdays, 12 - 1 p.m.
Intermediate: Thursdays, 6 - 7 p.m.

Where: 98th St. Northwest Athletic Club (I-35W at 98th St.)

Class Size: Eight per class; minimum of four to hold class.

Cost: \$49.50 for six one-hour lessons.

Daytime volleyball

Enjoy volleyball in the mornings. All games are played at the Bloomington National Guard Training and Community Center. You don't need a team - one will be formed each time.

When: Tuesdays and Thursdays year-round.

Where: Bloomington National Guard Training and Community Center, 3300 W. 98th Street.

Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$1.25 each session.

Men's, women's and co-rec softball

When: One evening per week for 10 weeks starting May 6.

Where: Valley View and Dred Scott Playfields.

Cost: \$485 per team - Recreation.
\$650 per team - Fast Pitch and Double Header.

Deadline: March 15. ♦

Dwan Golf Clubs



The **Dwan Men's Golf Club** was organized more than 20 years ago to promote public golf. Affiliated with the Minnesota Public Golf Association, the Club has approximately 300 members. A 9-hole league plays Tuesday evenings and an 18-hole league plays on Thursday afternoons. The Club sponsors eight tournaments during the golf season and also has a guest day. For more proficient golfers, the Club sponsors two traveling teams. Members have a wide range of golfing ability.

To become a member, purchase a patron card at Dwan Golf Course, 3301 West 110th Street. For information, call Leo Poehling at 952-844-5341 or Chuck Olson at 952-884-5625.

The **Dwan Women's Golf Club** plays a 9-hole round on Tuesday mornings and an 18-hole round on Thursday mornings. For information, call Dwan Golf Course at 952-563-8702. ♦

Youth Activities



Carnival

Saturday, February 23

12:30 - 3 p.m.

Northwestern Health Sciences University,
84th and Penn Ave.

Games, exhibits, food, police and fire demonstrations, entertainment and lot of fun for kids and families. Event is **free!** Please bring a food item for the VEAP Food Shelf. ♦

Spring Egg Hunt

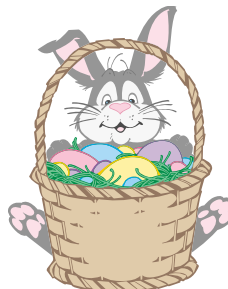
for kids, ages 8 and under

Saturday, March 30

Arrive by 11 a.m.

Starts at 11:30 a.m.

Normandale Lake Park,
84th and Normandale Blvd.



Hey, kids! How many eggs can you fit into your basket? This annual event is sponsored by Parks and Recreation and the Bloomington Breakfast Optimist Club. ♦

Early Bird Registration for Summer Programs

When: Saturday, April 13.

Time: 9 - 11 a.m.

Where: Oak Grove Middle School, 1300 W. 106th Street

Summer Spectrum is a cooperative effort between the Parks and Recreation Division, Bloomington Community Education and the Bloomington Art Center. The program provides summer activities for youth ranging from pottery to rock climbing, foreign language lessons to science camps. Reserve a spot for your child on this early-bird registration day at Oak Grove Middle School. Regular registration begins April 17 at the Parks and Recreation and Kids' Safari offices. ♦

Spring Travel Club

The Travel Club meets at events, facilities and businesses to explore the leisure opportunities available in our area. Kids develop social skills and relationships that last a lifetime. The Travel Club is an integrated opportunity.

Staff/participant ratio: 1/7.

Limit: 20.

Who: Kids, ages 7 - 12, all ability levels.

When: Saturdays, March to May (7 sessions).

Time: Varied.

Cost: \$20 (resident);
\$28 (non-resident).
Fee covers transportation and supervision.
Field trips are extra.

To register:

Call Parks and Recreation. ♦

Summer jobs

Apply early for summer positions with the Parks and Recreation Division. A variety of part- and full-time openings are available for day camp, playground, Arts in the Parks, sports and water safety instructors as well as life-guards, sound technicians and adaptive recreation aides. Call Parks and Recreation for an application and more information. ♦



Galaxy Youth Center

Reach for the stars!

The sky's the limit for youth grades 6 through 8 at Galaxy Youth Center, located at Valley View Middle School, 8900 Portland Ave. S. The center provides opportunities to empower youth through recreation, leadership, socialization, learning and service activities. Buses are available from Oak Grove and Olson Middle School. For more information, call 952-886-8848.

Hours: Monday - Friday, 2:20-6 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per quarter or \$.50 daily.

Youth Sports

Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA)

BAA offers baseball and softball programs for boys and girls, age 6 through 12, including a mini-mite program for kids, age 6. For information, call the BAA Information Line at 952-888-0807 or visit their Web site at www.baaonline.org. ♦

Bloomington Youth Soccer Club

Recognized as one of the Twin Cities' best instructional soccer programs, Junior Kickers Summer Soccer is a 10-week introduction to the basics for children, ages 5 through 12. From May to mid-July, there are weekly team practices with games late Sunday afternoons. For more information, call our voice-mail at 952-820-9444 or watch the *Sun Current* for details. ♦

AR&LE

Adaptive Recreation and Learning Exchange

The Adaptive Recreation & Learning Exchange (AR&LE) offers opportunities for people with disabilities to actively participate in recreational, leisure and community education programs in the cities of Bloomington, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. Activities are available for varied ability levels in inclusive or segregated settings. The City will make every reasonable effort to ensure residents can participate in the programs offered. For a complete listing of AR&LE's quarterly activities or to volunteer, call Parks and Recreation. ♦



Bloomington Art Center

10206 Penn Avenue South

Gallery Players

The BAC Gallery Players will present an alternative theater presentation.

Saturday, February 23 - Radio Show

A 1940s-style production with announcers, music, serials and commercials.

Saturday, March 23 - Readers' Theater

Plays, short stories and other dramatic adaptations read or performed by an ensemble of actors.

Time: 8 p.m.

Where: Art Center Gallery, 10206 Penn Ave. S.

Cost: \$5

For more information, call 952-563-4777. ♦

Spring Craft Boutique

Vendors will exhibit a wide variety of artistic crafts including pottery, wood, floral arrangements, beaded items and jewelry.

When:

Saturday, March 16,

11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sunday, March 17,

12 - 4 p.m.

Where:

Bloomington National Guard Training and Community Center, 3300 W. 98th Street.

Cost: Free.

For more information call 952-563-4777.



Gideon H. Pond House, 401 East 104th Street

Pond-Dakota Mission Park

Pond-Dakota Mission Park is the site of the Gideon Pond House, which was constructed in 1856. Listed on both the National and Minnesota Registers of Historic Places, the restored Federal-style, two-story brick house is open for tours on the third Sunday of each month from 1 - 4 p.m.

New this year

During open house hours, activities and programs for all ages will be offered. Activities combine the best of what the Park has to offer:

- Miles of hiking and mountain biking trails.
- Wildlife which live along the river.
- Native and non-native plant species.
- A rich historical and cultural perspective.

Open House activities at the Park

Come visit the Pond-Dakota Mission Park on the following Sundays, from 1 - 4 p.m., and learn more about your community's heritage.

February 17

"The Soul of the Indian"

Lecture on the Dakota Religion, based on the book by Charles Alexander Eastman.

March 17

Maple Sugaring *

Demonstrations on tapping trees for sap and making maple sugar.

"The Connecticut Story" *

Lecture on the beginning of the Pond Mission.

April 21

Cornhusk Dolls

All ages are welcome to learn how to make cornhusk dolls. A doll takes about one hour to make. Reservations required.

"History of Bloomington"

Lecture on the history of our city.

* May be cancelled if weather conditions merit.

Service Day

When: Saturday, May 18

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Who: Scout or youth groups.

The morning will start with a house tour and program about the history of the Pond-Dakota Mission Park. Service projects may include: building bat houses, gardening or trail work, housecleaning and polishing antiques. Recommended for grades 7 and up. Bring your own lunch and snacks. A treat and certificate will be presented at the end of the day. Reservations required.



For information

The Pond-Dakota Mission Park is owned by the City of Bloomington and operated with assistance from the Gideon Pond Heritage Society, the Bloomington Historical Society and numerous volunteers throughout the year. For more information, call 952-563-8881. ♦

Skate parks planned

Valley View Skate Park

In November the City Council approved the construction of a skate park in the Valley View Playfield area. The **Valley View Skate Park** will be an unsupervised, free-use facility featuring ramps, rails and other skating elements under three feet in height. The skate park will be open for use by in-line skaters, skateboarders and trick bikers.

Operable in summer

To facilitate the skate park, an asphalt pad will be installed on the north half of the outdoor hockey rink. The skate park equipment will be portable in order to accommodate use of the hockey rink in winter. The estimated cost is \$66,000. A June 2002 opening is planned.

Tri-city/YMCA Skate Park

The cities of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield, in cooperation with the YMCA, are



Tri-city/YMCA Skate Park will be located at the Southdale YMCA in Edina.

developing plans for the Tri-City/YMCA Skate Park to be located at the Southdale YMCA. The facility will be supervised and operated by the YMCA. Users will pay an admission or membership fee.

Costs and construction

Estimated cost for the first phase of the facility is \$400,000. Each city has proposed \$80,000 and the YMCA \$30,000 toward construction of the concrete-bowl facility.

Currently, prospective users of the skate park are conducting a fund-raising campaign to raise the additional \$130,000 needed for the project. If funding is secured, construction could begin as early as fall 2002.

For more information, call Randy Quale, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, at 952-563-8876. ♦

Introducing...Three Rivers Park District

Hyland Lake Park Reserve

10145 East Bush Lake Road

Hyland Lake Visitor Center 952-941-4362

Richardson Nature Center 952-941-7993

Hyland Ski and Snowboard Area 952-835-4250

Cross-Country Ski Trail Hotline 763-559-6778

Change is in the air! Hennepin Parks has become the Three Rivers Park District and better weather will bring a flurry of outdoor recreation at Hyland Lake Park Reserve. This 1,000-acre recreational area offers numerous activities for visitors of all ages and abilities. Equipment rental and lessons are available at reasonable rates.

Spring highlights

- ♦ HSSA Chalet Drive Golf Practice Center features 40 driving stations and a restaurant.
- ♦ 5.6-mile paved hiking and biking trail.
- ♦ 7.3 miles of turf hiking trails.
- ♦ 2.5 miles of pet walking trails.
- ♦ Picnicking, fishing and boating areas.
- ♦ New Visitor Center with concessions and rental equipment.
- ♦ Richardson Nature Center with programs, displays and rental equipment. ♦

Richardson Nature Center

8737 E. Bush Lake Rd.

Reservations required:

Live Raptor and Hike

February 22, 6 p.m.

Enjoy pizza. Meet a live raptor and learn its habits. Explore trails with a naturalist. Patron \$7; Regular \$9.

Deer Watch

February 26, 4:30 p.m.

Watch deer visit feeders. Learn how they adapt for winter. Be prompt - latecomers frighten deer away. Event is free.

Two great ways to spring clean in 2002

Check those basements, attics and closets for unwanted items. Have them hauled away as trash during the Curbside Cleanup or make some quick cash during the Citywide Garage Sale. You decide how you want to “clean up.”

Citywide Curbside Cleanup

If your regular trash collection is:	In this area:	Your Cleanup Day is Saturday,
Monday	East of Portland	April 20
Tuesday	Portland to Penn	April 27
Wednesday	Penn to France	May 4
Thursday	France to Normandale	May 18
Friday	West of Normandale	June 8

New this year: Limited scrap metal collection

Scrap metal is a problem waste – it cannot be burned at the incinerator. To keep our recycling costs down, small scrap metal items (pieces that can fit into the trunk of an automobile) will no longer be collected. These items can be taken to **South Hennepin Problem Waste and Recycling Facility**, 1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-6500. Only large scrap metal items will be collected including:

- ◆ Large metal office desks.
- ◆ Clothesline poles.
- ◆ Swing sets.

Remove wood, rubber, cement or other nonmetal materials from these items. No cast iron bathtubs or metal items that exceed 150 pounds will be accepted.

For more information, call Recycling. ◆



Citywide Garage Sale

Thursday, Friday and Saturday, May 2,3,4

For information, call the Human Services Information Line at 952-563-4957 V/TTY. ◆

Reduce your risk to toxins at home
Clean the green way

Think about how you clean your home. Chances are that the products you use to clean showers, unclog drains or scrub floors contain toxic chemicals. When you touch and inhale these chemicals, you may be putting your health at risk. Use alternative cleaning methods that reduce your exposure to harmful toxins. Not only will you save money, but you will protect your family and the environment as well. ◆

Earth-friendly cleaning options

In 1989, the Environmental Protection Agency concluded that indoor air carries a higher risk for personal exposure to toxic chemicals than outdoor air. Indoor pollution comes from new carpet, paint, plastics and the many products we use to clean our homes. Children and pregnant women can be particularly at risk. Limit the amount of cleaning products you buy and consider nat-

ural options when cleaning. Some suggestions include:

Natural cleaners

- ◆ Olive oil mixed with lemon juice makes an excellent furniture cleaner.
- ◆ Use club soda as a window cleaner or carpet stain remover.
- ◆ Wash affected area with liquid soap and water to get rid of ants.
- ◆ Make copper-bottomed

pots sparkle with lemon juice and salt. ◆

From the book, "Clean House, Clean Planet" by Karen Logan.



Keep our water safe

Remember that products you use to clean your home can pollute our lakes and streams via the drain. Look under your sink to identify your current cleaning needs. Would one all-purpose cleaner do the job of many? Try these cleaning suggestions that won't have a negative impact on plants and wildlife.

- ◆ **All-purpose cleaner** – Combine in a spray bottle: 1 teaspoon (tsp.) liquid soap, 1 tsp. borax, dash of lemon juice or vinegar, 1 quart warm water.
- ◆ **Floors** – Use a mild soap solution or 2 gallons warm water with 1 cup vinegar.
- ◆ **Laundry** – Use low or no phosphate detergents. Bleach and additives, such as whiteners, perfumes and colorants in laundry products all have adverse affects on surface and ground water. A tablespoon of vinegar in the rinse increases the brightness of clothes.

- ◆ **Shower** – Prevention is the key. A quick post-shower squeegee of the walls will minimize mildew. Bon Ami and a scouring pad will remove mildew from bath and shower.
- ◆ **Dishwasher** – Buy detergents without phosphates or chlorine. Use less detergent by first sprinkling baking soda over the dishes.

- ◆ **Oven** – The chemicals in oven cleaners are considered “acutely toxic”. A single exposure can produce damaging or fatal effects in a short period of time. Lining with foil is a good preventative measure. To clean, sprinkle with water and a layer of baking soda. Rub with copper scouring pad. ◆

Tips for clean clothes

- Many detergents, bleaches and stain removers contain harsh chemicals. Instead of buying separate products to remove stains or whiten your clothes, try these less-toxic tips.
- ◆ Remove bloodstains by covering the area with meat tenderizer. Apply cool water to make a paste. Wait 15-30 minutes, wash thoroughly with cool water.
 - ◆ To remove perspiration odor, soak in warm vinegar water.
 - ◆ To remove rust or mildew, apply lemon juice and salt. Place in the sun.
 - ◆ Use equal amounts of vinegar and water to remove salt from shoes and boots. ◆

Source: Goodwill Industries.

Household hazardous waste

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, when certain household chemicals are not used up they can become hazardous waste. Cleaning products, such as furniture polish, oven cleaners, drain cleaners and air fresheners are considered hazardous waste. If you throw cleaners into the trash, they end up in the landfill where toxins can leak into our groundwater and pollute local streams and harm wildlife.

Use it up!

- ◆ Use up products before purchasing new ones. If you can't use them up, properly dispose of the residual or give them to a friend or neighbor to use.
- ◆ Purchase smaller amounts that can be used up easily.
- ◆ **Store them carefully!**
- ◆ Keep hazardous products out of reach of children in a locked cupboard or high shelf.
- ◆ Store in a dry place, and keep from freezing.
- ◆ Store away from heat or flames.
- ◆ Store in original container.

Household items

- Do not throw the following household hazardous waste products in the trash.
- ◆ Nail polish/remover*
 - ◆ Oven cleaner*
 - ◆ Polish with solvents*
 - ◆ Spot remover*
 - ◆ Drain cleaner*
 - ◆ Button batteries
 - ◆ Batteries (rechargeable)
 - ◆ Fluorescent lights
 - ◆ Mothballs
 - ◆ Thermometers (mercury)
- See sidebar.
- *Throw container in trash if it is empty.
- For proper disposal, take items to South Hennepin Problem Waste and Recycling Facility, 1400 West 96th Street. ◆

Make your home safe:
Replace your mercury thermometer

A mercury thermometer in your home can be a potential risk to the health of your family and community. Mercury is a nerve toxin that is especially dangerous when inhaled. Symptoms in children have included apathy, irritability, hypersensitivity, weight loss, sweating, light sensitivity and eczema.

If mercury spills from a thermometer, it evaporates and could reach dangerous levels in indoor air. Even the smallest amount of mercury needs to be treated seriously, especially if you have children or pets at home.

Free digital thermometer

Bring your mercury thermometer to **South Hennepin Problem Waste and Recycling Facility** and receive a free digital one. The facility, 1400 West 96th Street, is open Tuesday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Transport the thermometer in a container to avoid breakage. The limit is one per participant, while supplies last. ◆

Sources: Minnesota Office of Environmental Assistance and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Program teaches good eating habits

A 5-A-Day curriculum is now taught to all Bloomington first graders during the month of February. The program, developed by Bloomington Public Health, is based on the national 5-A-Day campaign that encourages eating at least five fruits and vegetables per day for good health. Hands-on activities integrate the 5-A-Day message into subjects like math and writing. Students also participate in tasting parties and take home an assignment that educates other family members.

Eating five to nine servings of fruits and vegetables daily, along with physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight, promotes good health and reduces the risk of cancer, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes and other chronic diseases. For more information, call 952-563-8900 V/TTY. ♦



The 5-A-Day campaign starts kids on the path to a lifetime of healthy eating.

Healthier food choices in Bloomington schools

The Tri-City Partners' Physical Activity and Nutrition group is working toward healthier food choices in Bloomington middle schools' vending machines. With a wide range of after-school activities, hungry youth and adults frequent the machines and end up with food

choices that are high in fat and low in nutrients. Healthier choices include snacks that have less than five grams of fat per serving such as pretzels, nuts, granola bars and low-fat chips. For information, call Joan Bulfer at 952-563-8992. ♦

WIC is accepting new clients

There is a direct role between good nutrition and the mental and physical development of a child. Children who don't eat enough, aren't eating the right food or received inadequate nutrition during their mother's pregnancy get off to a poor start.

Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a nutrition program that helps children get a healthy start to life by providing nutrition edu-

cation and food vouchers that help form the basis of a well-balanced diet. WIC also provides access to health care services for pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, infants and children up to five years of age. The program, administered by Bloomington Public Health, is now accepting new clients who meet income guidelines. For more information, call 952-563-8900 V/TTY. ♦

Healthy communications

Steve Banks, Dean of Students at Valley View Middle School, will talk about healthy communications with youth at the next parent empowerment seminar on Tuesday, February 26 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Kennedy

High School, 9701 Nicollet Avenue South. The seminar is intended for parents with youth, ages 12 - 17. Cost is free. For more information, call Eileen O'Connell at 952-563-4964. ♦

Community support groups

The Human Services Division facilitates the following support groups that meet at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

Grandparent Connection	For those who provide primary care for their grandchildren. Meets the third Thursday of each month, beginning February 2, from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Childcare provided by reservation. Co-sponsored by Lutheran Social Services. Call 612-879-5351.
Vision Loss	For individuals coping with vision loss and their family members. Meets the third Friday of each month, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Co-sponsored by Vision Loss Resources. Call 612-871-2222.
Multiple Sclerosis (MS)	For individuals with MS, their family members and caregivers. Meets the first Wednesday of each month, February - June and September - December, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Minnesota Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Call 612-335-7900.
Stroke	For those who have suffered a stroke and their family members. Meets Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. On the first Wednesday of each month, the group meets for breakfast at a local restaurant. Call 952-563-4957 V/TTY.
People First South Suburban	Empowerment and support for people with disabilities. Meets the second Tuesday of each month, 7 - 8:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by Arc Hennepin-Carver. Call 952-920-0855. ♦

Life is Like a Valued Patchwork

The Bloomington Senior Program continues its monthly continental breakfast series:

February 27
Self-Stress Reduction
Certified Holistic Health Coordinator Jessica Smith will share tips on acupuncture, self-massage and aromatherapy.

March 27
The Camp Snoopy/Mall of America Challenge
Test your knowledge and learn fun facts about the Mall of America, which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2002. This free program is sponsored by the Camp Snoopy Employment Services.

Programs are held at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South, from 9:15 - 10:30 a.m. Cost is \$3, payable at the door. To register, call 952-563-4957 V/TTY. For transportation, call 952-563-4948. ♦

Grants fund services for residents

An estimated \$163,517 in human services grant funding was awarded to community organizations to provide services to Bloomington residents. Included in this amount is \$20,000 from the Community Development Block Grant Fund and \$500 from the Bloomington Human Rights Commission.

Priority services

At a November meeting, the City Council approved funding for the programs as recommended by the Request for Proposal Committee, a group of community members and representatives from Public Health, Human Services, Bloomington Police Department, Housing and Redevelopment Authority and the Human Rights Commission. The committee reviewed applications, placing priority on services that support low-income families, people with disabilities, youth, immigrants and older adults. For more information, call 952-563-8733. ♦

Grants for 2002

Bridging, Inc.

Cornerstone Community Services Intervention Program

Bloomington School District 271 Even Start

Bloomington School District 271 Senior English as a Second Language

Family and Children's Services Counseling

South Hennepin Immigrant Services/Family and Children's Community of Nations

Bloomington Meals on Wheels

Minneapolis Mediation Program

Pillsbury Crisis Center

Senior Community Services - H.O.M. E. Program and Senior Outreach

Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People - Social Services and Emergency Services

Three-digit dialing has arrived

A number of new dialing systems are now available or coming soon to Minnesota residents. These three-digit phone connections will make obtaining information and general communication easier. The new numbers include:

211 Community information and social services referral connects metro callers to First Call for Help and out-of-state callers to First Call Minnesota, effective February 2002.

511 Traffic and transportation information. Now available statewide to most wireless callers, it will be available to all callers in spring 2002.

711 Telecom Relay Service for people who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The Federal Communications Commission required nationwide service for all public phone companies, effective November 2001.

There is no charge for using these numbers. For more information, call your local telephone service provider. ♦

Amphitheater decision

Noise protections for residents

In December, the Metropolitan Council created a list of conditions to prevent the proposed Burnsville amphitheater from having substantial negative effects upon Bloomington residents. Through the findings of the Metropolitan Council Significance Review Committee, the City of Bloomington and its residents obtained an additional set of protections to minimize amphitheater noise that were not part of the original project.

Some protections are unprecedented

- ◆ The audibility standard in the agreement is more restrictive than the state noise standard.
- ◆ Developer Rose Wild will be required to implement additional noise reduction measures developed by a panel of nationally recognized noise experts.

Other protections

- ◆ All recommendations of the sound study commissioned by the Metropolitan Council will be incorporated into the agreement.
- ◆ Rose Wild will pay for all noise monitoring.
- ◆ The panel of noise experts will review the amphitheater design and recommend additional features to reduce the noise impact on residents. Rose Wild will implement additional recommended measures to prevent violations of state noise regulations and to meet the objectives of the sound study's audibility standard.

No metropolitan significance

The Metropolitan Council's decision came after a recommendation from its Significance Review Committee that there was no need for a finding of metropolitan significance as long as an agreement between Rose Wild and the Metropolitan Council was implemented. The Metropolitan Council did not have authority to reject the amphitheater project. It could only delay the project if it determined that the development was "one of metropolitan significance," meaning the project could cause problems for neighboring communities.

Sound study report

The agreement between Rose Wild and the Metropolitan Council requires the owners to ensure that all concerts meet the sound level limits of the sound study report prepared by

HMMH Inc., Cavanaugh Tocci Associates Inc., and Shen Milson and Wilke/Paoletti Inc.

Agreement requires Rose Wild to:

- ◆ Install a state-of-the-art sound, management and monitoring system.
- ◆ Limit lawn seating tickets to 12,300. (Total crowd size is limited to 19,500.)
- ◆ Deal with the sound impact on neighboring communities, including hotlines and informational meetings with community groups.

Monitoring operations

Representatives of the cities of Bloomington and Burnsville, Rose Wild and the citizens' groups will review and monitor operations. The panel of noise experts will review the design-construction process and recommend additional noise reduction measures, if necessary.

For information, call Community Development Director Larry Lee at 952-563-8947. ◆



Rose Wild, a joint venture of Rose Presents concert promoters and the Minnesota Wild team owners, proposes to build a 19,500-seat amphitheater west of I-35W along the Minnesota River in Burnsville. The amphitheater is predicted to host 25 - 35 events per season with an average attendance of 11,000 people.

Visible street address numbers assists emergency response

An amendment to the City Code requires street and suite addresses to be posted prominently at building entrances. Proper building identification assists police and firefighters in locating buildings when emergency services are needed. The ordinance requires that address numbers:

- ◆ Be visible from the street or posted at the driveway entrance, or on the mailbox if the building is set back.
- ◆ Appear in legible Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3).
- ◆ Are posted on entrances located at the rear of a property that has a public access road.
- ◆ Have separate numbers posted on the front, rear and service doors of each address within the building in multiple tenant dwellings.
- ◆ Are posted on signs at the construction sites of new buildings.

For information, call Fire Marshal Bob James at 952-563-8968 or visit www.ci.bloomington.mn.us. ◆

Bloomington Yesterday

John Brown dairy farm - 1907

A dairy farm once stood on what is now the Bethany Fellowship property on the north side of Auto Club Road. The farm's original house, shown here, was built in the late 1860s. The wing on the rear of the house to the left of the picture was added later. This photo shows (from left to right) Mrs. Cora Brown Landon, Mrs. John Brown (seated), Mrs. John Brown Jr., John Brown Jr. and Walter Brown. The house still stands just west of the Minnesota Valley Country Club. ◆



Photo credit: Bloomington Historical Society



Residents recognized athletes in the December photo of Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) players next to a flag acknowledging Bloomington's All-America City award in 1961. John Miller reported that the baseball player was Don Johnson, a dentist in Richfield. Betty Pixley identified the football player on the right as her son, Robert Pixley. Robert's father was a president of BAA. Our thanks to both callers! ◆

Home improvement loans build community

Home Improvement Deferred Loan applications are now being accepted by the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).

Loans of up to \$25,000 are available to Bloomington homeowners. There are no monthly payments. Repayment occurs when the home is sold, transferred or conveyed. Interest is charged at a simple 5 percent per year for the first 10 years based on the original loan amount.

Since 1975, the HRA has loaned over \$5 million to homeowners to help maintain the condition of housing and neighborhoods in the city and to aid in renewing our community.

Eligible repairs

- ◆ Replacement of roofs, electrical, heating and plumbing systems.
- ◆ Exterior painting.
- ◆ Gutters, windows, doors, insulation, siding, soffits and fascia.
- ◆ Foundation, sidewalk or step repairs.

Ineligible repairs

- ◆ Decorating.
- ◆ Additions.
- ◆ Finishing basements.
- ◆ Remodeling.
- ◆ Garage constructions.

Due to federal lead paint regulations, homeowner labor that may disturb painted, varnished or stained surfaces will no longer be permitted.

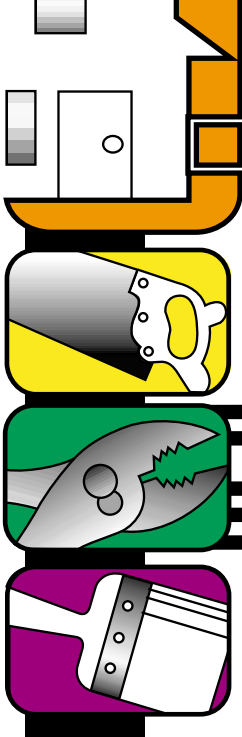
To apply for a Home Improvement Deferred Loan, you must have sufficient equity in your home to cover the amount of the loan. Income guidelines apply. See graph.

Deadline

Applications will be accepted at the HRA office in City Hall, 2215 West Old Shakopee Road, until March 22. For information or to receive an application, call 952-563-8937. ◆

Persons in household	Max. gross income
1	\$36,750
2	\$42,000
3	\$47,250
4	\$52,500
5	\$56,700
6	\$60,900
7	\$65,100
8 or more	\$69,300

Come see the creative ways you can improve your home!



Bloomington Home Improvement Fair

Saturday, February 23, 2002
9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Jefferson High School
4001 West 102nd Street

- Free admission
- Professionals from the home improvement trades
- Seminars
- Food
- Door prizes

For details, call the Bloomington Housing and Redevelopment Authority, 952-563-8937 (TTY: 952-563-8740).